

### 3. *Cossypha natalensis hylophona* Clancey

*Cossypha natalensis hylophona* Clancey, *Durban Museum Novitates*, vol. iv, 1, 1952, p. 15: Chinteché, Nyasaland.

Differs from *C.n.natalensis* and *C.n.egregior* in having the head-top russet or cinnamon (about 00S-5-10°), and in exhibiting brighter and more extensive areas of russet on the lower nape and centre of the back; rump and upper tail-coverts redder. Ventrally still more richly coloured than *C.n.natalensis* (about 0-9-12°).

Wings ♂♂ 92-95, ♀♀ 86.5-92.5, bills (from skull) 17-20, tails ♂♂ 72-81.5, ♀♀ 69-73.5 mm.

(Sixteen specimens examined)

*Range*: The highland evergreen forests of eastern Mashonaland, Southern Rhodesia, and adjacent highland districts of Portuguese East Africa (Macequece) and to the coast at Beira and Mzimbiti. Extralimittally in the highland evergreen forests of Nyasaland, northern Portuguese East Africa and southern Tanganyika Territory. The populations of this robin-chat occurring in Angola, French Equatorial Africa, the Cameroons, the Belgian Congo, the southern Sudan, south-western Abyssinia, etc., are closely allied to *C.n.hylophona*, but require further study to determine their correct relationship. Replaced in the Matthews Range, northern Kenya Colony, by *C.n.garguensis*, and in the coastal districts of East Africa by *C.n.intensa*.

NOTE.—The species is not generally recorded as occurring in Northern Rhodesia, but there is an adult ♂ collected by Wilde on the Machili River, south-western Northern Rhodesia, on 15th October, 1908, in the Transvaal Museum. This specimen resembles topotypes of *C.n.hylophona* but is rather paler on the upper-parts, the back and rump less reddish.

## New Geographical Races of *Camaroptera fasciolata* and *Batis capensis* from Southern Rhodesia

by MR. REAY H. N. SMITHERS AND MISS MARY PATERSON

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### *Camaroptera fasciolata irwini* new race

*Description*: Differs from *C.f.fasciolata* (Smith) in lacking the buff colour of the flanks and lower belly, being clear white on the under parts between the barring. The upper parts distinctively lighter and less russet than *C.f.fasciolata* and lacking the olive greyness of *C.f.buttoni* (White) and *C.f.stierlingi* (Reichenow). The upper tail coverts and tail distinctly less russet than *C.f.fasciolata*, being intermediate between this and *C.f.buttoni*.

*Type*: N.M. 20381, Male, 31.8.55, Central Estates, Umvuma, collected by M. P. Stuart Irwin. Taken in bushes and trees growing in rocks in open grass park-like woodland.

*Distribution*: The whole of Southern Rhodesia excluding the border area from Beit Bridge to Plumtree in the south-west and west where it is replaced by the nominate form.

*Material examined*: Besides the Type the National Museum has a series of 3 from Central Estates, Umvuma, 5 from West Nicholson, 2 from

Selukwe, 2 from Tjolutjo and 1 each from Buhera, Umtali, Bembezi, Kana River, Rutope River Sebungwe, Wankie, and 2 from Kasane, Bechuanaland Protectorate, adjacent to the Southern Rhodesian border in the extreme north-west.

*Remarks:* Material from Beit Bridge, Ingwesi Ranch Syringa, 60 miles south of Plumtree, is clearly typical as is a series from Francistown, B.P., 20 miles west of the Southern Rhodesian border. Named after Mr. M. P. Stuart Irwin of Salisbury, S.R.

*Batis capensis kennedyi* new race

*Description:* Generally greyer above, less olive brown than *B.c.erythrothalma* or *B.c.capensis*. The russet colour on the wing coverts and edges of the primaries, the under parts and the grey crown paler than in the other two forms; the black chest band of the male generally narrower. The wing of the males averaging longer 65.7 than *B.c.erythrothalma* 62.7. The females approximately the same at 62.5.

Occurring commonly with *B.molitor* in the well wooded slopes on the sides of granite kopjes in the Matopos area where they form an island population separated from *B.c.erythrothalma* of the Eastern Districts and adjacent areas by a wide belt of ecologically unsuitable country.

*Types:* Male N.M. 16016; Female N.M. 16012; Mchabezi Valley, Matopos. 20° 29' S : 28° 46½' E. 2nd May, 1954—Schools Exploration Society Expedition 1954.

*Material examined:* Sixteen specimens from the Type locality and adjacent areas.

*Remarks:* Named after Major-General Sir John Kennedy, former Governor of Southern Rhodesia, who drew attention to the presence of this species in the Matopos in two visual records made in 1950. (*Ostrich*, p. 158, December 1951).

## Notes on African Larks—Part III

by MR. C. M. N. WHITE

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### *Mirafra africana* Smith

I have already published some notes on the races of southern and central Africa in *Bull. B.O.C.* 64, pp. 20–21, 1943, and 65, pp. 48–49, 1945. Additional material since examined enables me to elaborate these notes in various ways. I am greatly indebted to Mr. R. H. Smithers for the loan of important material from the National Museum, Bulawayo.

### *M.a.africana* Smith

This race represents the southern end of what now emerges as a cline ranging north to the Zambesi river and to a limited degree beyond. It is the largest and darkest population within the cline with wings 95–105 and bills from the skull 19–24 mm.

### *M.a.zuluensis* (Roberts)

The study of further material convinces me that this race is much less satisfactory than was hitherto thought. It is in fact no more than an intergrade between *africana* and *transvaalensis* Hartert, differing from the former in being lighter and from the latter in being generally darker above